



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 238, September 6, 2024

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

07 Sep 2024 1719 GMT
 SFI: 249 SN: 146
 A-Index: 8
 K-Index: 2
 X-Ray: C2.8
 304A: 174.9 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: 3360
 Elc Flx: 5080
 Aurora: 2/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): 3.8
 Solar Wind: 358.8
 Geomag Field QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

3A, MONACO. Col, MMØNDX and Steve, MMØSAJ will be active again as **3A/MMØNDX** and **3A/MMØSAJ** from Monaco on **September 5th-9th**. Their main focus is likely to be on the low bands during their evening hours, and on 6 meters if propagation permits. QSL both calls via [EB7DX](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0830-0913)

3D2, FIJI. Maxim OH7O celebrates his 50th birthday with a Pacific DXpedition. He'll be QRV as **3D2YY** (OC-016) **until September 19th**, operating mostly on SSB and maybe some CW. He's planning a short side trip to Tuvalu from where he may be QRV as **T2M**. Updates: <https://oh7o.com/dxexpedition-to-pacific-islands/>. QSL via [OH7O](#) or LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-0920)

4L, GEORGIA. Stephane, F4JZW, signs **4L/F4JZW** **until September 30th** on 80-6m with 10W and a wire. QSL via LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2421 August 28, 2024] (0830-1004)

8Q, MALDIVES. Juergen, DL3JH is on vacation on Thulhagiri island (AS-013), signing **8Q7JH** on 40/20/15/10m CW/SSB **until September 12th**. QSL via [DL3JH](#).

-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-0913)

8Q, MALDIVES. Michele, IZ8PWN is QRV as **8Q7WN** from the Thudufushi Island resort, IOTA AS-013, **until September 13th**. Activity is holiday style on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters using SSB and possibly FT8. QSL via [I8KHC](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-0913)

8Q, MALDIVES. Zhao, BG4JMI, currently works on the Maldives and uses the callsign **8Q7JM** during his spare time. He is due to stay for several years but has to renew his callsign every three months. QSL via [BG4JMI](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2420 August 21, 2024] (0823-0913)

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. Special event station **9M61LS** is QRV **until September 16th** to celebrate the 61st anniversary of Sabah's independence. QSL via [9M61LS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0920)

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. Team **9M1Z** will be active from the "Semporna Islands", Sabah, East Malaysia during the first half of September. They will be QRV from four islands: Mabul (**September 1st-4th**), Timba-Timba (**September 5th-7th**), Matakang (**September 8th-11th**) and Pom-Pom (**September 12th-15th**). Look for activity on 80-6 meters SSB, CW, FT8/FT4 and RTTY. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (see <https://www.qrz.com/db/9M1Z> for the links to the four logs, which will be uploaded separately), or direct to [9W8ZZK](#) or [9M8WIN](#).

-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0830-0920)

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. Celebrating the 61st Sabah Day (August 31st) and Malaysia Day (September 16th), special callsign **9M61S** will be active from **August 23rd to September 16th**. QSL direct to P.O. Box 20469, 88761 Luyang, Sabah, Malaysia.

-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0823-0920)

DL, GERMANY. Members of DARC's Ortsverband Greifswald (DLØHGW) will be active as **DL25ØCDF** from **August 1st to September 30th**. The special callsign marks the 250th anniversary since the birth of the painter Caspar David Friedrich, an icon of the German Romantic movement. A certificate will be available, see <https://dl0hgw.darc.de/dl250cdf.htm> for information. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau, eQSL and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1733 July 20, 2024] (0726-0927)

DU, PHILLIPINES. Ronnie DW1VVZ will activate Landing Monument National Park (POTA PH-0115) **on September 7th** on 40/20/15/10m SSB and FT8, signing **DWØW**. QSL via [DW1VVZ](#).

-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-0913)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of September 5, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands

9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. VKØH	Heard Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF September 6, 2024 (0906-0927)

E5/S, SOUTH COOK IS. Tom, N2WLG will be QRV as **E51WLG** from Rarotonga (OC-013) from **September 1st to 8th**. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and various digital modes. QSL to [N2WLG](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0913)

E5/S, SOUTH COOK IS. Bob, ZL1RS will be active again as **E51EME** from Rarotonga (OC-013, grid BG08cs), South Cook Islands from **August 23rd to September 15th**. He will focus on 6m FT8 via ionospheric propagation, with 6m EME using Q65-60A as his secondary objective. See <https://www.grz.com/db/E51EME> for more information and updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1737 August 17, 2024] (0823-0920)

EA, SPAIN. Special event callsigns **EG1SDC-EG9SDC** (**September 1st-7th**) and **EH1SDC-EH9SDC** (**September 8th-15th**) will be activated to commemorate Day of Asturias and the principality's patron saint, popularly known as the Santina de Covadonga. This is the 40th edition of the 'SDC' special event. Also active will be **EG4ØSDC** (**September 1st-15th**) and **ED3SDC** (**September 14th-15th**). See <https://santina.dxfun.com/> for more information, including online logs and downloadable certificates. QSL for all callsigns via [EA1AUM](#), LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0830-0920)

EI, IRELAND. Team **EJ7NET** (namely EI3HA, EI3ISB, EI5KO, EI6FR and EI9JF) will be active from Inis Mor, Aran Islands (EU-006) from **September 7th to 11th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on the HF bands. QSL direct to [EI6FR](#).

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0913)

EK, ARMENIA. Artem, R2GEO is QRV as **EK/R2GEO** from Yerevan. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL to [R2GEO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 August 22, 2024] (0823-0913)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM45CDXC** will be active from **September 7th to 21st** for the 45th Convention of the Clipperton DX Club (<https://cdxc.org/>) to be held at Montceau les Mines on September 20-22. QSL via [F5CWU's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1737 August 17, 2024] (0906-0920)

F, FRANCE. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Wingle during WWII (September 2, 1944), the local radio club (F4KLR) will be active as **TM8ØLW** on **August 31st, September 2nd and for another 13 days until November 9th**. All SSB and CW QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau and eQSL; FT8 QSOs will be confirmed via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0830-1108)

F, FRANCE. The radio club F4KIR from Saint Malo uses the callsigns **TM8ØCAL** (**during August**) and **TM8ØLCA** (**during September**) to commemorate their city's liberation 80 years ago. QSL via [F5BNJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2419 August 14, 2024] (0816-0927)

F, FRANCE. Vitaly, F4WBU will be active as **TM2Ø24PG** on **August 12, 19 and 26**, and again from **August 28th to September 8th** during the 17th Summer Paralympic Games. All QSOs will be confirmed via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1736 August 10, 2024] (0809-0913)

FG, GUADELOUPE. Thierry, F4IDN is QRV as **FG/F4IDN** near Capesterre Belle Eau **until September 15th**. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and digital modes. This includes being active from POTA site GP0001. QSL to [F4IDN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 August 22, 2024] (0823-0920)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Yann, F1SMB will be active again as **FO/F1SMB** from French Polynesia from **August 15th to September 15th**. His main QTH will be Tahiti (OC-046), with a side trip to Fakarava

(OC-066). Usually, he operates FT8 and SSB 40-10 meters. QSL via [F1SMB](#), LoTW, eQSL.
-[425DXN # 1736 August 10, 2024] (0809-0920)

FO/M, MARQUESAS IS. Paula, NX1P is QRV as **FO/NX1P** until October 1st. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to [NX1P](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-1004)

FP, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON. Thomas, DC8TM, and his wife Martina, DF3TS, will be active from St Pierre (NA-027) as **FP/DC8TM** and **FP/DF3TS** from **August 24th to September 16th**, including POTA and SOTA locations. For a detailed schedule see: <https://www.qrz.com/db/DC8TM>. QSL via [DC8TM](#) and [DF3TS](#).
-[DXNL # 2420 August 21, 2024] (0823-0920)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernard, DL2GAC has been active again as **H44MS** from Malaita (OC-047), Solomon Islands for a few days, and will remain QRV **until around September 15th**. He operates SSB and some FT8 on 40-6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log and LoTW. QSL via [DL2GAC](#).
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0830-0920)

I, ITALY. Luca, IK5AEQ will be QRV from Capraia Island (EU-028) as **IA5/IK5AEQ** from **September 2nd to 7th**. He plans an activation of POTA IT-1444 during his stay there. QSL via [IK5AEQ](#), OQRS, eQSL or LoTW.
-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-0913)

ISØ, SARDINIA. Giuseppe, IK5WWA will be QRV as **IMØC** from San Pietro (EU-165) from **September 1st to 15th**. Activity will be on 40 to 2 meters. QSL to [IK5WWA](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0920)

J3, GRENADA. Greg N9GB will be on Grenada (NA-024) **until September 10th** and operate as **J3/N9GB** (CW/SSB, 40-10m). QSL via [EB7DX](#) or LoTW.
-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-0913)

JA, JAPAN. Kari, JQ7ELL has had to change the dates of his **JQ7ELL/7** activity from Tashiro Island (AS-206), which is now expected to take place on **September 7th-8th**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on 80-6 meters, with a focus on 17 and 40 meters. QSL via [JQ7ELL](#).
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0913)

K, UNITED STATES. Depending on weather conditions, Steve, **K4WA** intends to operate from five island groups, camping on the different islands as follows:
September 8th-9th St George Island NA-085
September 10th-12th Havens Island NA-076
September 13th-15th Mullet Key NA-034
September 16th-18th Amelia Island NA-138
September 19th-21st Jekyll Island NA-058
He will operate mainly CW and SSB, but may also include some FT8. QSL via [K4WA](#).
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0920)

K, UNITED STATES. Organized by the Citrus Belt ARC, the 25th annual Route 66 On The Air special event celebrates the historic US Highway 66. Twenty-three amateur radio stations using 1x1 callsigns (**W6A-W6W**) will be QRV from cities along the "Mother Road" from **September 7th to 15th**. See <https://w6jbt.org/> for information about the event and QSL routes.
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0920)

K, UNITED STATES. Matt, AF2F has been active from Long Beach Island (NA-111) since **August 19th** and will remain there **"for a few weeks"**. In his spare time, he is QRV as **AF2F/2** on 40-10 meters CW and FT8. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or [AF2F](#).
-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0823-0913)

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. Team **KH8T** (Robert K5PI, Amy KC5DJI, Don N5DD, Madison W5MJ and Keith VE7KW) will be active from Pago Pago (OC-045), American Samoa on **September 2nd-16th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 (both "regular" and SuperFox) on 80-10 meters (possibly also 160

and 6 meters, if conditions allow) with two stations. See <https://www.kh8t.net/> for more information. QSL via [MØURX's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1733 July 20, 2024] (0830-0920)

LU, ARGENTINA. Look for Hoc **LU5BE/S** and Enri **LU8EFF/S** to be QRV from Chepes and the rarely activated grid FF68qp, in the Argentine province of La Rioja, on **September 4th-8th**. They will operate SSB, CW, FT8 and RTTY on 40-6 meters with two stations. QSL LU5BE/S via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or via [EA7FTR](#); QSL LU8EFF/S via LoTW and eQSL (paper cards will not be provided).

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0830-0913)

OE, AUSTRIA. Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (<https://rrdxa.org/>), Tom, OE4EIE is active as **OE4RRDXA** from **July 1st to September 30th**. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog; paper QSL cards will not be available.

-[425DXN # 1731 July 6, 2024] (0705-0927)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special callsign **OE45NO** highlights the negative Austrian referendum about the commissioning of a nuclear power plant 45 years ago. QRV from September **until the end of November**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), HRDlog.net OQRS.

-[DXNL # 2421 August 28, 2024] (0830-0920)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event station **OE5ØLOW** is QRV **during September** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the G-QRP Club. QSL direct to [OE7AFT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0927)

OE, AUSTRIA. The special event stations **OE2XXM** and **OE5XXM** will be active **during September** around the 38th International amateur radio meeting in Gosau. QSL via bureau.

-[DXNL # 2414 July 10, 2024] (0830-0927)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special callsign **OE7ØVIE** marks the 70th anniversary of Vienna International Airport (IATA code VIE) from **June 21st to September 30th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW in due course, or via [OE6VIE](#).

-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0927)

ON, BELGIUM. Members of UBA's Groupement De Verviers will be active as **OR8ØUSA** on **September 1st-15th** to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation from German occupation; and on **December 16th-31st** commemorating the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, events in which the US military was heavily engaged. QSL via [ON4GDV](#).

-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0830-0920)

OZ, DENMARK. Jan-Willem PA7JWC (**5Q7DX**), Maarten PD2R (**OV2T**) and Sven PA1SVM (**OZ/PA1SVM**) will be active from Saeby, Vendsyssel-Thy (North Jutland, EU-171) from **September 10th to 17th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 160-2m. QSL 5Q7DX via LoTW (preferred), or via [PA7JWC](#); QSL OV2T via LoTW (preferred), or via [PAØABM](#).

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0920)

SV9, CRETE. Karl, DJ5IL is QRV as **SW9IL** from the Kissamos area. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to [DJ5IL](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0920)

T5, SOMALIA. Fabri IV3JPP and his team (IV3DSH, IZ8GCE, IV3ZXQ, IV3AZV and YL3JA) will be QRV as **6O3T** from northern Somalia from **September 9th to 30th** on all bands and modes. <https://www.qrz.com/db/6O3T>.

-[DXNL # 2422 September 4, 2024] (0906-1004)

T8, PALAU. Nobu, JAØJHQ is QRV as **T88PB** from Koror, IOTA OC-009, **until September 9th**. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. This includes being an entry in the All Asian DX Phone contest (September 7-8, 2024). QSL direct to [JAØJHQ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-0913)

TU, COTE D'IVOIRE. Mustafa, TA2YGT is QRV as **TU/TA2YGT** from Abidjan **until September 16th**. Activity is in his spare time mostly on 20 meters using SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL

direct to [TA2YGT](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 29 August 8, 2024] (0809-0920)

V5, NAMIBIA. Andreas, DB8UX is QRV as **V51/DB8UX**. Activity is on the HF bands using FT8. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to [DB8UX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 August 22, 2024] (0823-0913)

VP6, PITCAIRN I. Bill, GØVDE will be active as **VP6WR** from Pitcairn Island (OC-044) on **September 5th-15th**. He plans to operate SSB, FT8 (probably Multi-Stream MSHV) and some RTTY (depending on demand) on 80-6 meters using a linear amplifier. See <http://vp6wr.com> for more information. QSL via [MØURX's QQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1737 August 17, 2024] (0830-0920)

VU, INDIA. San, VU2TT will be QRV in several contests with special call sign **AT5T** from **September 7th to November 28th**. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-0927)

VU, INDIA. Special event station **AT78I** is QRV **until November 13th** to celebrate 78 years of independence for India. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via [VU2JOS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 August 22, 2024] (0823-1115)

XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO will be active again as **XT2AW** from Burkina Faso from **September 8th to 22nd**. He plans to operate SSB and FT4 on 80-10 meters and QO-100. QSL via [MØOXO's QQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0927)

Z2, ZIMBABWE. Pista, HA5AO will be QRV as **Z22AO** from **September 3rd to 13th** from Zambezi National Park. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to [HA5AO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0913)

ZB, GIBRALTAR. Stations in Gibraltar can use the special **ZG prefix** from **September 3rd to 10th** for Gibraltar's National Day celebrations. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0920)

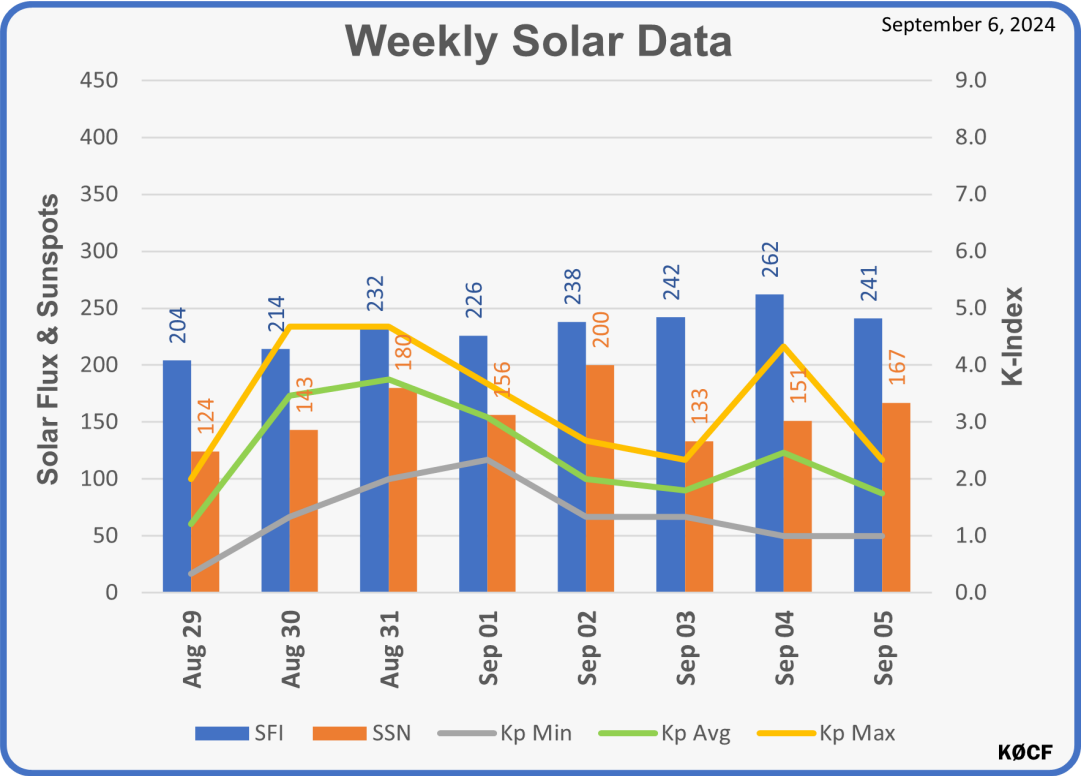
ZD9, TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH I. Lance, W7GJ will be active as **ZD9GJ** from Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) **approximately** from **September 12th to October 1st**. This will be primarily a 6m EME DXpedition, using Q65-60A in the "Q65 Pileup" mode. See <https://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/> for detailed information and instructions. When not "aimed up at the moon", he may operate SSB or FT8 on 6m TEP. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W7GJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-1004)

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Team **ZS9KK** will be active from a farm in the Klein Karoo region of South Africa during the SARL Field Day weekend (**September 7th-8th**). They will operate SSB and CW on 80, 40 and 20 meters. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0913)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

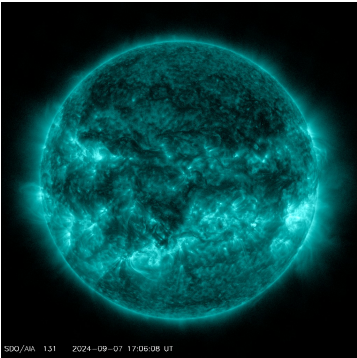
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, August 29th through yesterday, September 5th.

The average solar flux was 236, up 11 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 262 on Wednesday, September 4th, following a low of 204 on August 29th.

The average sunspot count was 161, down by 8 from last week, peaking at 200 on Monday, September 2nd after a weekly low of 124 on August 29th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.3 with a maximum of 4.7 on Saturday, August 31st, resulting in generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 2.3 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since August 30th has been extremely high with 24 major flares, the largest of which was an M 5.5 event on Sunday, September 1st.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, August 30th through 1200 UTC, September 6th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Sep 05	1325	M 1.3
2	Sep 05	0942	M 1.6
3	Sep 05	0856	M 2.8
4	Sep 05	0325	M 1.1
5	Sep 04	2000	M 1.2
6	Sep 04	0611	M 1.0
7	Sep 04	0456	M 1.2
8	Sep 04	0255	M 1.4
9	Sep 03	1602	M 3.3
10	Sep 03	0722	M 1.4
11	Sep 02	2102	M 1.8
12	Sep 02	2011	M 1.4
13	Sep 02	1343	M 2.9
14	Sep 02	0529	M 1.9
15	Sep 01	2248	M 1.5
16	Sep 01	2000	M 1.1
17	Sep 01	1331	M 5.5
18	Sep 01	0757	M 1.4
19	Aug 31	1302	M 1.8
20	Aug 31	0859	M 1.2
21	Aug 31	0238	M 1.2
22	Aug 31	0049	M 1.1
23	Aug 30	1220	M 3.8
24	Aug 30	0206	M 1.2

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Sep 6	75%	20%	235
Sep 7	75%	20%	225
Sep 8	75%	20%	225

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on September 2, 2024).

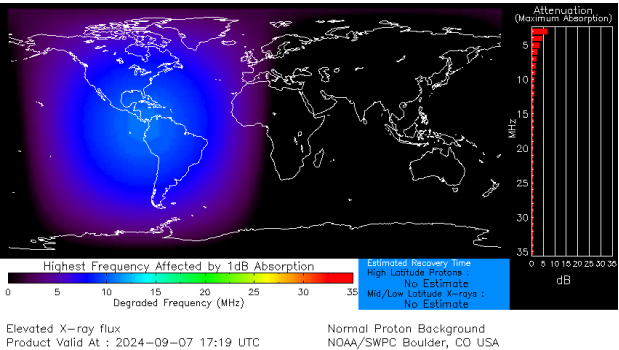
Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 6	240	2
Sep 7	240	2
Sep 8	245	3
Sep 9	245	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 10	240	2
Sep 11	240	2
Sep 12	240	2
Sep 13	240	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 14	250	2
Sep 15	255	2
Sep 16	245	2
Sep 17	240	3

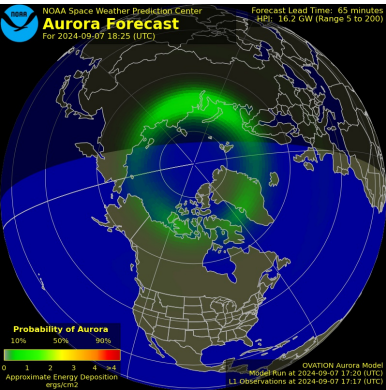
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.
Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

What's Happening on the Farside of the Sun?

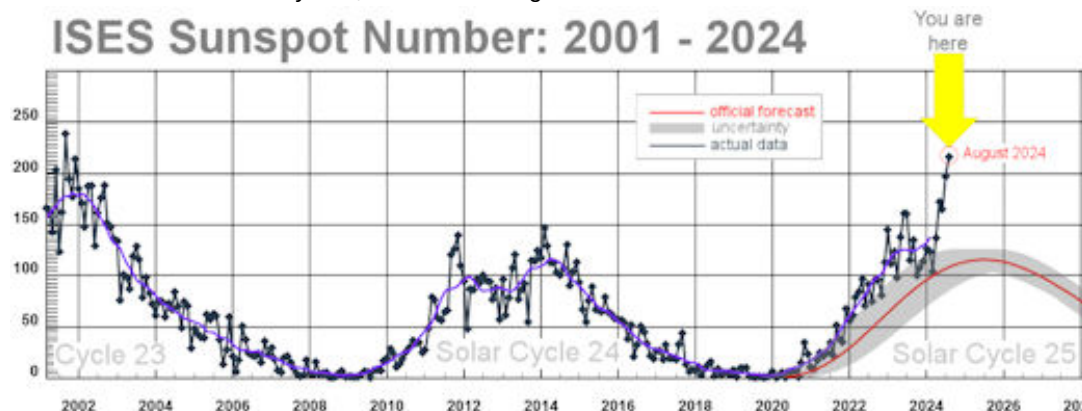
A [magnificent halo CME](#) billowed away from the farside of the sun yesterday, the second time this week this has happened. A hidden sunspot group transiting the farside must be crackling with activity.

If it were facing Earth, we would now be bracing for geomagnetic storms.

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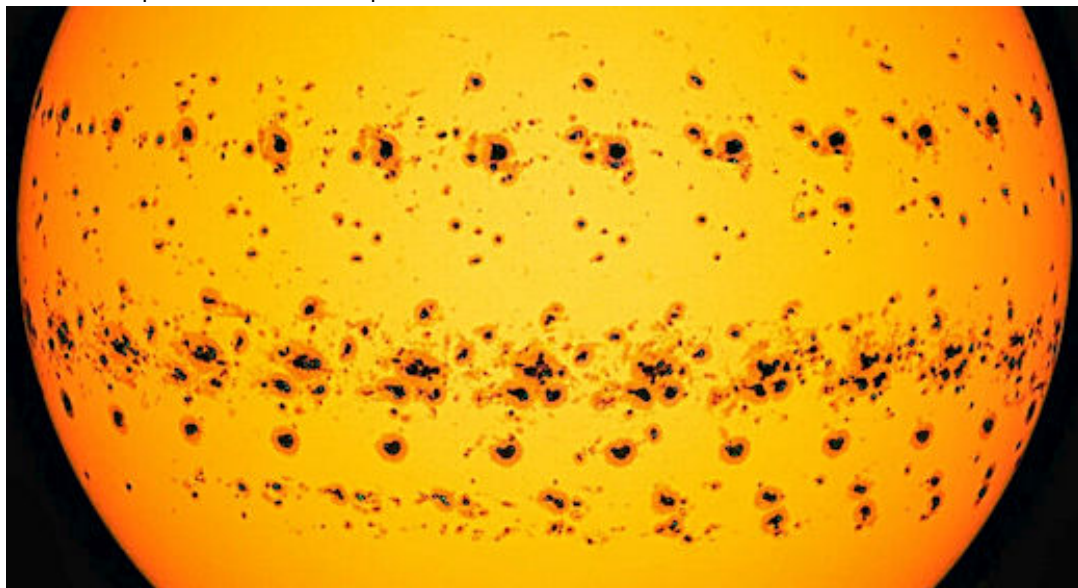
Solar Cycle 25 Continues to Surge

Solar activity continues to intensify. In August 2024, the average [monthly sunspot number](#) exceeded 200 for the first time in 23 years, almost doubling the official forecast:



The current solar cycle (Solar Cycle 25) wasn't expected to be this strong. When it began in Dec. 2019, experts predicted it would be weak like its immediate predecessor Solar Cycle 24. Instead, Solar Cycle 25 may be on pace to rival some of the stronger cycles of the 20th century. Already in May 2024 we have experienced [a century-class geomagnetic storm](#) with auroras sighted in the South Pacific, central America and south Africa.

The last time sunspot counts were this high, in Sept. 2001, the sun was winding up to launch the [Great Halloween Storms of '03](#), which included the strongest X-ray solar flare ever recorded ([X45](#)) and a CME so potent it was felt by Voyager at the edge of the solar system. A repeat is not guaranteed, but current sunspot counts tell us it's possible.



Above: A composite view of sunspots in Aug. 2024. Credit: Senol Sanli

Years from now, we may look back and realize that 2024 was the maximum of Solar Cycle 25. Or not; the original "[official forecast](#)" predicted Solar Max would occur in July 2025. Either way, we probably have at least 2 more years of high solar activity ahead. Stay tuned.

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Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start	End	Web Site

CWOps CW Open	Sep 7	0000Z	Sep 7	2359Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Sep 8	0000Z	Sep 8	0400Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Sep 14	0000Z	Sep 15	2359Z	Rules
ARRL September VHF Contest	Sep 14	1800Z	Sep 16	0300Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Sep 15	0000Z	Sep 15	0400Z	Rules
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	Sep 21	1200Z	Sep 22	1200Z	Rules
Iowa QSO Party	Sep 21	1400Z	Sep 22	0200Z	Rules
Texas QSO Party	Sep 21	1400Z	Sep 22	0200Z	Rules
	Sep 22	1400Z	Sep 22	2000Z	
Wisconsin Parks on the Air	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 21	2300Z	Rules
New Jersey QSO Party	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 22	0359Z	Rules
New Hampshire QSO Party	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 21	2200Z	Rules
	Sep 22	1600Z	Sep 22	2200Z	
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 22	0700Z	Rules
	Sep 22	1600Z	Sep 22	2400Z	
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Sep 28	0000Z	Sep 29	2400Z	Rules
Maine QSO Party	Sep 28	1200Z	Sep 29	1200Z	Rules
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Oct 5	0600Z	Oct 6	0600Z	Rules
California QSO Party	Oct 5	1600Z	Oct 6	2200Z	Rules
Makrothen RTTY Contest	Oct 12	0000Z	Oct 13	1559Z	Rules
Nevada QSO Party	Oct 12	0300Z	Oct 13	2100Z	Rules
Oceania DX Contest, CW	Oct 12	0600Z	Oct 13	0600Z	Rules
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Oct 12	1200Z	Oct 13	1200Z	Rules
Arizona QSO Party	Oct 12	1500Z	Oct 13	0500Z	Rules
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct 12	1600Z	Oct 13	0400Z	Rules
	Oct 13	1300Z	Oct 13	2200Z	
South Dakota QSO Party	Oct 12	1800Z	Oct 13	1800Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	Oct 19	0001Z	Oct 20	2359Z	Rules
New York QSO Party	Oct 19	1400Z	Oct 20	0200Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Oct 19	1500Z	Oct 20	1500Z	Rules
Illinois QSO Party	Oct 20	1700Z	Oct 21	0100Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Oct 21	1300Z	Oct 25	2359Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	Oct 26	0000Z	Oct 27	2400Z	Rules
Ukrainian DX Contest	Nov 2	1200Z	Nov 3	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	Nov 2	2100Z	Nov 4	0300Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 9	0000Z	Nov 10	2359Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	Nov 9	0001Z	Nov 10	2359Z	Rules
JIDX Phone Contest	Nov 9	0700Z	Nov 10	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 9	1200Z	Nov 10	1200Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Nov 10	0000Z	Nov 10	0400Z	Rules
LZ DX Contest	Nov 16	1200Z	Nov 17	1200Z	Rules

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	Nov 16	2100Z	Nov 18	0300Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	Nov 23	0000Z	Nov 24	2400Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]